

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, PFOR, CI, US

SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: A) SANTIAGO 4064; B) SANTIAGO 4042; C) SANTIAGO

2605

1. ACCORDING TO FATHER WARNER, FATHER HESBURGH SCHEDULED
ARRIVE SANTIAGO JULY 11, STAYING AT HOTEL CARRERA, AND
DEPARTING JULY 14.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RESPONSE HOLY CROSS REQUESTS
BE CONVEYED TO ITS REPRESENTATIVES IN SANTIAGO CONCERNING
PROPOSED REPLY TO GOC LETTER SIGNED BY EDUCATION MINIS-
TER CASTRO:

QUOTE THE PROVINCIAL APPROVES YOUR REFUSAL TO FORM PART
OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSED BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION,
BUT MAKES THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION: IN THE PARAGRAPH
WHICH BEGINS WITH THE WORDS INNERQUOTE EN PRIMER TERMINO,
END INNER QUOTE DISTINCTION SHOULD BE MADE BETWEEN THE
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CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS, SOLE OWNER OF ST. GEORGE'S

COLLEGE, AND THE CHURCH OF CHILE AND OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITIES. ONLY PRIESTS OF HOLY CROSS, INDIANA PROVINCE INC., CAN DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY. THE CHURCH OF CHILE CAN, AND HAS, INVITED

THE CONGREGATION TO PARTAKE IN HER EDUCATIONAL APOSTALATE AND HAS NOT AND WILL NOT WITHDRAW THIS INVITATION. THE CONGREGATION THUS PARTICIPATES IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH. BUT IT IS THE CONGREGATION, LEGAL OWNER OF ST. GEORGE'S, WHO REFUSES TO SELL AND MUST BE A PARTY TO ANY SALE.

QUOTE SECONDLY, PLEASE OMIT ANY REFERENCE TO CARDINAL BENELLI.

QUOTE THIRDLY, IN THE PARAGRAPH WHICH BEGINS INNER QUOTE EN VIRTUD END INNER QUOTE WE DO NOT ONLY THINK THAT IT IS UNNECESSARY FOR US TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION, BUT WE DO NOT SEE WHAT ROLE OR FUNCTION THE COMMISSION COULD POSSIBLY HAVE, SINCE WE DO NOT WISH TO SELL ST. GEORGE'S.

QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO THE PART THAT BEGINS INNER QUOTE CONTINUAR SU LABOR EDUCACIONAL, END INNER QUOTE THE CONGREGATION ACCEPTS THE ORIGINAL INVITATION OF THE THEN CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO ON MARCH 1, 1943, THIRTY YEARS AGO.

QUOTE FINALLY, WE SUGGEST A COMPLETE RESTUDY OF THE PART THAT BEGINS INNER QUOTE DESPEJAR EL CARGO QUE PESA END INNER QUOTE. I DO NOT THINK IT IS AT ALL CONVENIENT TO ASK FOR A HEARING ON THE CHARGES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION WORKING AT ST. GEORGE'S. THEY SHOULD HEAR OUR POSITION, BUT WE SHOULD NOT INVITE A PSEUDO-TRIAL, WHICH WE WOULD BE POWERLESS TO CONTROL ONCE INITIATED, EVEN THOUGH WE KNOW OF EVERYONE'S INNOCENCE.

QUOTE THE BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT THEY HAVE INTERVENED OUR PROPERTY, AND THIS IS WHAT WE WANT TO RESOLVE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN, IN OUR OPINION, COMPLETELY ARBITRARY AND WITHOUT SOLID FOUNDATIONS. TO SIT DOWN WITH THEM UNDER THE CONDITIONS EXPRESSED IN ADMIRAL CASTRO'S LETTER, IS TO WEAKEN OUR POSITION AND WAIVE OUR RIGHTS. WE WANT TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THE INTERVENTION AND CONTINUE OUR WORK AT ST. GEORGE'S. WE WILL COLLABORATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN SOLVING THIS BASIC PROBLEM. SIGNED FATHER

WARNER. END QUOTE.

3. REQUEST YOU MAKE ORAL DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
AT HIGHEST LEVEL, PREFERABLY MINISTER CARVAJAL IF AT

ALL POSSIBLE, TO REVIEW SITUATION AND POTENTIAL FOR
ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD GOC INTERVENTION OF
ST. GEORGE'S AND POSSIBLE EXPROPRIATION BECOME PUBLIC
ISSUE IN U.S. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT GOC WILLING-
NESS TO PAY COMPENSATION WILL NOT MITIGATE REACTION
OF THOSE WHO WILL FOCUS ON EXPROPRIATION OF CHURCH
SCHOOL WITH ATTENDANT ISSUES OF EDUCATIONAL AND
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN PLAY. FURTHER, YOU MAY WISH TO
NOTE THAT IN YOUR MAY 10 CONVERSATION WITH EDUCATION
MINISTER AS REPORTED REFTEL (C), YOU UNDERSTOOD GOC
CONTEMPLATED EVENTUAL RETURN OF SCHOOL TO CONGREGA-
TION. IT SEEMS CLEAR CONGREGATION DOES NOT WISH TO
SELL. CONTINUED INTERVENTION OR EXPROPRIATION OF
SCHOOL CANNOT HAVE OTHER THAN ADVERSE EFFECT ON GOC
IMAGE IN U.S. AND EXACERBATE THE FORMIDABLE DIFFICUL-
TIES WHICH ALREADY STAND IN THE WAY OF OUR PROPOSED
PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO CHILE. KISSINGER

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